Alberta

DISASTER SERVICES

Office of the Minister

423 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2080

To
The Honourable Gerard Amerongen
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of Alberta Disaster Services, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN E. MOORE
Minister-in-Charge

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Report of the Managing Director

The annual report of Alberta Disaster Services for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984 is respectfully presented.

The wisdom of having a small agency to provide a focus for sensible emergency planning and hazardous material safety is clearly evident in the security provided to residents of the province. I believe Albertans are fortunate to have one of the most active programs in these areas as exists anywhere in Canada.

During the fiscal year, the agency, with the active assistance of many Albertans, has continued to ensure that emergency response plans for municipalities, health care facilities and special areas were created, up-dated and exercised. A large number of Albertans participated in training courses and exercises designed to enhance the skills and awareness of emergency response activities. Disaster assistance grants were provided to several Alberta communities to aid them and their residents in recovering from unforeseen disastrous events. New guidelines were developed to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of this program.

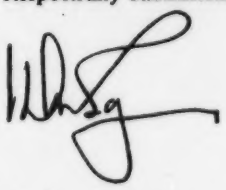
Development of the Dangerous Goods Control program was aggressively pursued in anticipation of it becoming operational in 1984. Provincial dangerous goods inspectors were hired and given training before being located to regional offices in 1984. A comprehensive information centre is being developed to support not only the inspectors but also municipalities, industry and concerned citizens. Throughout the year we continued to work closely with federal government staff in the development of the dangerous goods regulations.

Our public information literature and news letters were revised and up-dated so as to better inform and enhance the dialogue with the communities we serve.

A review of the agency's organization was commenced to address the responsiveness of our programs, the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations and the development of our employees.

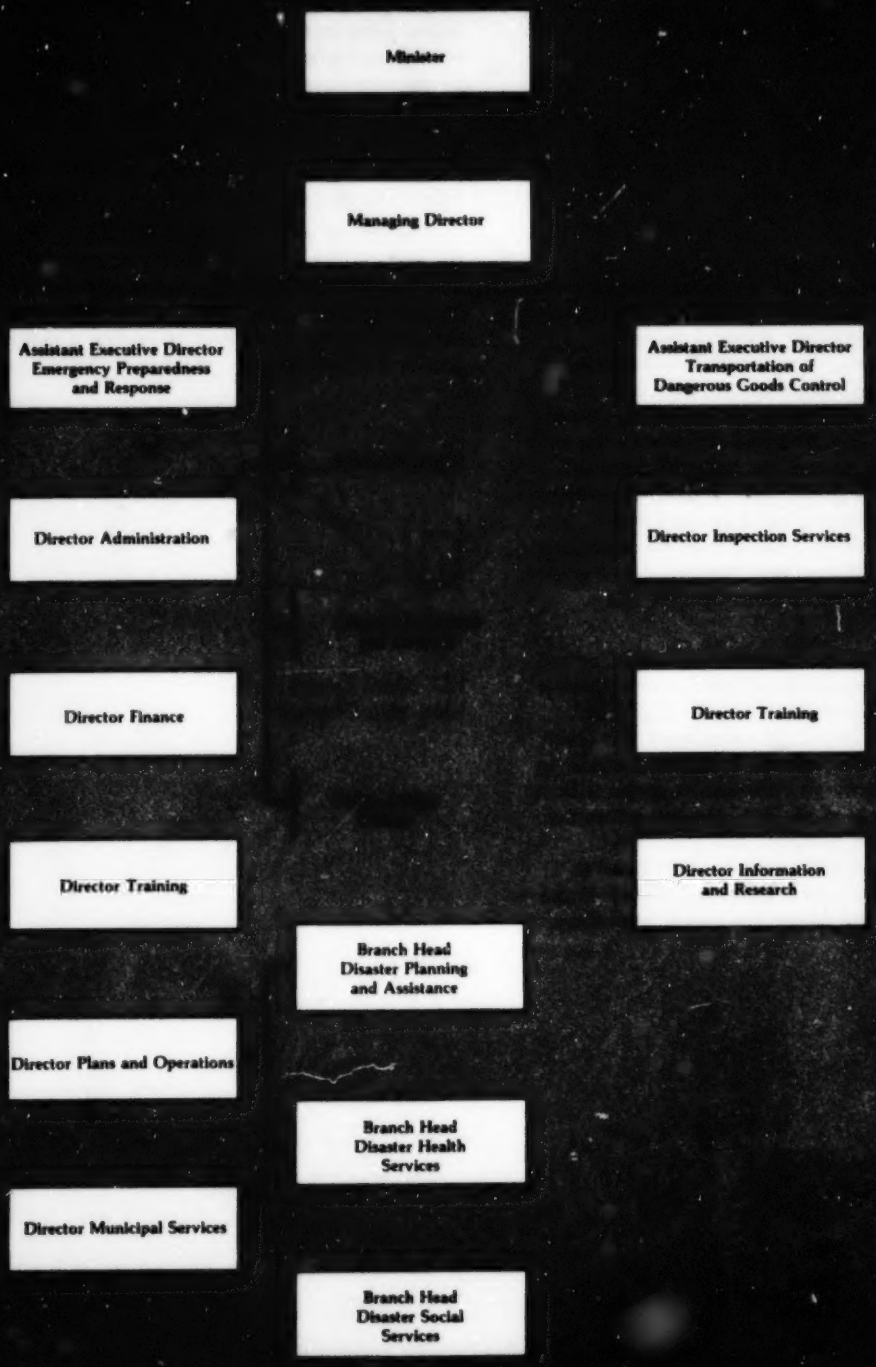
After many years of service and leadership with the agency, Mr. Ernie Tyler retired on May 31, 1983. The employees of the agency, although few in number are highly expert in their fields, and dedicated to the concept of providing a unique service to Albertans.

Respectfully submitted,



I.D. Mark Egener
Managing Director

Organization
Alberta Disaster Services



1 Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Program

The object of the program is to develop an overall provincial program of preparedness for, and response to, emergencies and disasters. In this capacity, program personnel are responsible for planning, training and advising for activities involving both the Alberta Government and municipal governments. Program resources are activated during emergencies and disasters when a situation develops beyond the capability of a single authority or when coordination of several authorities is necessary. Staff also administer special rehabilitation and assistance programs authorized by the Alberta Government after emergencies and disasters.

Program Legislation

The Disaster Services Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980

Alberta Regulation 164/79, The Disaster Assistance Regulation

Alberta Regulation 112/77 as amended by Regulation 71/81, Emergency Planning Regulation

Alberta Regulation 299/77 as amended by Alberta Regulation 314/79, Emergency Government Areas Regulation

Alberta Regulation 307/77, Emergency Services Regulation

1 Plans and Operations

1. Disaster Planning

Peacetime Planning

The Alberta Sour Gas Release Plan outlining the provincial government response to a hydrogen sulphide emergency was completed and received ministerial approval. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta Amateur Radio Communications Service was negotiated and approved. The agreement enables the department to use Ham radios and volunteer operators as an emergency back-up communications system. A one-day familiarization course was conducted for emergency planning officers of various government departments. A joint study with Alberta Government Telephones was initiated to determine communication requirements for peacetime emergency and disaster situations. Emergency plans are under development with the Chief Medical Examiner's Office to deal with mass casualties and provincial and federal agencies for a major air crash situation. Exercises were conducted for staff outlining the operating procedures of the Alberta Emergency Response Centre at ADS headquarters. Staff attended meetings of the Papal Secretariat for the Papal Visit to Edmonton. The department was also represented on the Drought Monitoring Committee organized by Alberta Agriculture. A representative attended meetings of the Alberta Environment Turtle Mountain Study Group and the municipality of Crowsnest Pass was kept informed of the group's activities. The department formally joined the Edmonton Area Pipeline and Utility Operators' Committee. This committee met monthly and conducted an annual emergency exercise.

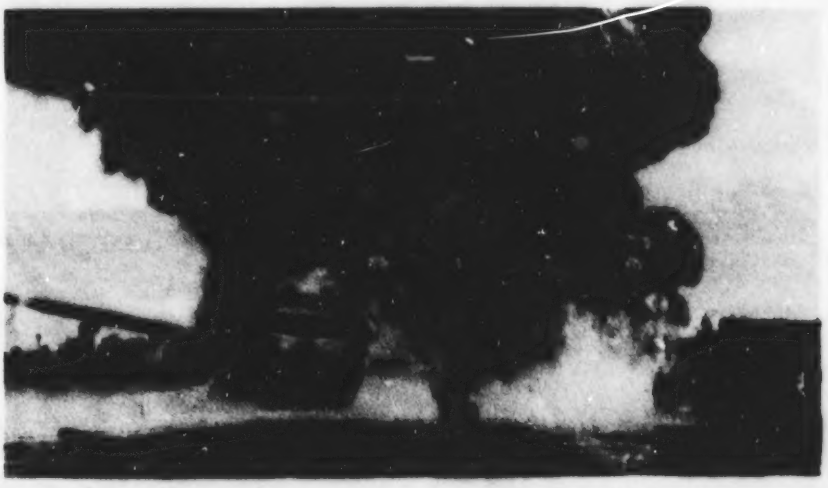
Emergency Report Response Summary

Again this year, dangerous goods spills comprised a major portion of emergency response report activity. Of a total of 41 emergency responses, 26 related to dangerous goods spills. Fires involving dangerous goods accounted for another two incidents.

Two tornados caused extensive damage in Camrose and Paradise Valley, west of Lloydminster. Floods in Strathcona and Minburn counties, Kananaskis, and Coronation were the subjects of three more reports. A forest fire near Swan Hills, a railroad bridge fire in Fort Saskatchewan, a Boeing 737 fire at Calgary International Airport and a fire in the village of Hairy Hill resulted in property damage but no casualties. Three people died and 17 others were injured when a military vehicle rolled over near Lac La Biche. Earth tremors were experienced in the province when earthquakes hit Raymond, Alberta and Central Idaho, U.S.A. (See Appendix I for a complete list of emergency responses.)

Wartime Planning

An annual review of each government department's war plan was completed with amendments issued in January, 1984. New and reorganized government departments were requested and assisted to produce war plans. The Radiological Defence Manual was reviewed, redrafted and reissued. The Forestry School in Hinton was designated as the Departmental Relocation Unit for wartime dispersal. This location is more suitable than the previous one in Red Deer. In the event of a wartime emergency,



A fire which destroyed a Boeing 737 at Calgary International Airport was one of 41 emergency incidents reported to the department during the year.

Photo courtesy of Calgary Fire Department

1 Plans and Operations

this unit would house support staff required for personnel at Penhold. The Alberta Emergency Planning Regulation (112/76) was reviewed to ensure Schedule A (Peace) and Schedule B (War) reflect current government organization. (See Appendix II for a map of Alberta Disaster Services Districts and Appendix IIi for the Alberta Emergency Government Structure.)

2. Disaster Health Services

Provincial Planning

Meetings were held with representatives of the Sturgeon Public Health Unit to complete a draft of a model health unit plan. This plan can be used as a basis for emergency planning for other health units. Staff met with RCMP to discuss police security procedures in relation to the model hospital emergency plan. The Emergency Stockpile storage program in Alberta was reviewed by staff and emergency services, Health and Welfare Canada. Staff met with the City of Edmonton Emergency Planning Committee to update emergency plans. Meetings were held with representatives of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology to develop emergency contingency plans for Patricia Campus. Staff met with representatives of health care facilities and various support agencies to develop a health advisory committee to the City of Edmonton Disaster Services. Several meetings were held with the medical committee of the Alberta Papal Visit Secretariat to prepare for the Edmonton Papal visit in September, 1984.

Health Care Facility Emergency Planning

Meetings were held to develop, revise and amend emergency plans for particular health care facilities to bring them into accord with the format outlined in the model emergency plan for health care facilities developed by disaster health services. Meetings were held to develop hospital emergency plans based on the model hospital emergency plan for active treatment hospitals. Staff met with hospital representatives to develop a model emergency evacuation plan for auxiliary hospitals. Other meetings were held to develop model emergency evacuation plans for nursing homes, psychiatric care centres and a cancer clinic. (See Appendix V(e) for a list of Emergency Hospital Plan exercises.)

Training

One training exercise was held at Edson for the emergency hospital facility. Training focussed on assembly, utilization and dismantling of the hospital. It is one of 21 provided by the federal government in the custody of the province. The entire hospital is packaged in 594 crates and can be assembled by 30 skilled personnel in four hours. Some of its features include three operating theatres, a pharmacy, an X-ray department, a laboratory and eight general wards. Two Disaster Nursing Seminars were given by staff and guest lecturers. Staff conducted 14 Emergency Preparedness Workshops. Eight candidates attended a Casualty Simulation Course.

Displays, Films and Pamphlets

A total of 143 people visited the emergency hospital displayed at Edson after a two-day training session. Alberta Disaster Services pamphlets and films were distributed extensively. Thousands of emergency passes went out to health care facilities (63,265). These passes are wallet-sized identification cards issued to health care and social services personnel expected to respond to emergencies.

Supplies

A total of 55 casualty collecting units containing supplies to deal with casualties were stored in one-third sections in six communities. Twenty-one advanced treatment centres equipped with medical supplies and three all-purpose medical clinics were placed in storage. Hospitals with a written, exercised and approved hospital emergency plan received a total of 349 hospital disaster kits. Blood donor packs (32) were stored throughout the province. Airport disaster kits were stored at the International Airports at Edmonton and Calgary. The X-ray processing machine was loaned to the X-ray department at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology for teaching purposes. Four beds and blankets were loaned to the Edmonton Folk Music Festival. The Apparatus Oxygen Inhalation 5-Way Outlet was loaned for information purposes to the hospital at Canadian Forces Base, Namao.

Inspections

One hundred eighty-five emergency medical equipment storage areas were inspected. Medications in the three Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (Olds, Camrose and Grande Prairie) were rotated as required.

Other

Staff attended the Intergovernmental Nurses Forum. Casualty simulation was provided to 72 Occupational Nurses Emergency Preparedness seminars, three Advanced Trauma Life Saving seminars and one Syncrude Canada workshop. One nurse consultant assisted in a Casualty Simulator Instructors Course at Arnprior. Nurse consultants attended consulting skills courses and one attended the Medical Management of Disaster Planning Conference in Los Angeles.

3. Disaster Social Services

Liaison

Staff visited regional directors, area managers, and district office managers of Alberta Social Services and Community Health. They discussed and ensured Social Services and Community Health support of municipalities requiring assistance during a peacetime emergency. Social Services and Community Health agreed to deliver Disaster Social Services Awareness Training to area managers and district office managers. A Disaster Social Services Awareness Manual was prepared in collaboration with Social Services and Community Health and copies made available to regional directors, area managers and district office managers. District office managers were provided with emergency government identification passes to issue to designated response personnel within their organization. A prototype Reception Annex to the Municipal Peacetime Emergency Operations Plan has been prepared for the municipalities. Copies were forwarded to appropriate regional directors, area managers and district office managers of Alberta Social Services and Community Health to update the resource portion of the Disaster Social Services Awareness Manuals. A list of municipal personnel and local directors of disaster services was prepared for inclusion in the Disaster Social Services Awareness Manuals appropriate to each regional director, area manager and district office manager of Alberta Social Services and Community Health. Commitments from various commercial outlets to provide emergency feeding of response personnel in Edmonton were maintained.

Institutional Planning

Work was begun on an evacuation/reception plan for the Single Men's Hostel, Alberta Social Services and Community Health. The plan was requested by the director of the Single Men's Hostel. Meetings to address needs and planning concerns were organized by the administrator of the hostel and included administrators of similar privately run facilities.

Supplies

Supplies on hand were: 18,555 blankets, 21 mobile feeding units, and 10 welfare centre kits. An inventory check of supplies stored throughout the province was begun in conjunction with visits to Alberta Social Services and Community Health district office managers and municipal officials.

Other

A study of the latest trends and attitudes concerning Disaster Social Services was begun. Current fall-out shelter studies and research projects continued to be examined and researched. Cataloguing of identified congregate shelter spaces continued with updates submitted to appropriate Alberta Disaster Services and Alberta Social Services and Community Health personnel.

1 Municipal Services

Legislation

A total of 299 of the incorporated municipalities have passed bylaws establishing municipal disaster services agencies. Ministerial orders have been issued authorizing the establishment of disaster services agencies in 17 improvement districts and three special areas.

Services

Seven district officers made a total of 904 visits to municipalities to assist local officials with emergency preparedness activities. (Appendix II shows the disaster services districts.)

Preparedness for Peacetime Emergencies

Hazard analyses have been completed by 298 municipalities, 14 improvement districts, three special areas and three national parks. Emergency operations plans were reviewed for 298 municipalities, 14 improvement districts and three special areas. One mutual aid agreement covering two municipalities was concluded during the year bringing the total to date to 58 agreements covering 255 municipalities. District officers conducted exercises of 27 emergency operations plans.

Planning for War Emergency

Municipal war emergency plans were not developed due to peacetime emergency priorities. Existing plans prepared in previous years cover 296 municipalities.

Radiological Defence

Radiological defence instruments to measure radiation levels which were acquired in previous years remained allocated to 236 municipalities. Equipment in all municipalities was inspected to ensure operational readiness, as part of the equipment inspection program.

Emergency Preparedness Reports

An emergency preparedness report system was continued during the year. These reports are prepared by Alberta Disaster Services, disaster preparedness and response district officers and the municipal director of disaster services. They show municipal authorities how to evaluate their level of emergency preparedness.

Rescue Kits

Rescue kits were issued to the towns of Beaverlodge, Carstairs, Drayton Valley, Fairview, Grande Centre, Hanna, Hinton, Lamont, Olds, Redcliff, Spruce Grove, Stavely, and Sylvan Lake. They were also issued to the villages of Bawlf, Cluny, Donalda, Eaglesham, Elnora, and Ferintosh and the counties of Athabasca No. 12 and Thorhild No. 7. A total of 103 kits have been issued since the program began in 1974. Each kit contained approximately $3,000 worth of equipment which included items such as stretchers and a portable generator. To qualify for a kit, communities were required to meet certain criteria, including organizing and training a rescue team and leader, and developing a peacetime emergency operations plan.

Cost-Shared Equipment Program

Sixty-three municipalities participated in the cost-shared equipment program, where municipalities share the cost of equipment required for emergency operations. Priority was given to the development or extension of municipal radio systems for emergency communications.

1 Disaster Assistance

Programs

Alberta's disaster assistance program is unique in Canada. It provides financial assistance not only to municipal governments but to individuals and businesses to help recover after an extraordinary event which couldn't be prevented or readily insured against. The program also provides assistance toward unanticipated expenditures resulting from municipal and provincial emergency operations and related restoration activities.

Payments were made at the discretion of the minister if loss or damage was so devastating as to threaten the viability of a business or the economic survival of an individual or family. Payments were also made if, in the opinion of the minister, assistance was in the public interest.

Disaster assistance programs were administered under well-established guidelines. It was generally accepted and publicly advertised that financial assistance was not normally available where insurance either could have or did cover the reported loss and damage. (See Appendix IV for a list of disaster assistance programs.)

A disaster assistance program was approved for the County of Vermilion when a tornado touched down near Lloydminster, July 8.

Photo by Lou Eliesen, *Lloydminster Daily Times*

1 Training

Central Courses

Staff conducted a total of 11 sessions of five different emergency response courses (Rescue Leader , Dangerous Goods Instructors' Orientation, Municipal Disaster Services Program Management, Disaster Nursing Seminar and Radiological Defence Officers). Attendance totalled 206.

One Emergency Government Preparedness course of one-day duration was conducted for 16 newly appointed provincial emergency planning officers. (See Appendix V(a).)

Extension Courses

Three courses, Dangerous Goods, Basic Rescue and Casualty Simulation were offered a total of 50 times. Attendance was 734. (See Appendix V(b).)

Courses Outside Alberta

A total of 76 candidates attended courses, conferences and seminars at the Federal Studies Centre in Amprior, Ontario. The centre is operated by Emergency Planning Canada to train and educate personnel in various aspects of disaster planning and response. Most popular activities were the Conference of Mayors and Elected Officials, Health and Welfare Canada Community Emergency Planning and Public Works Canada Analysis and Design of Fallout Protection. (See Appendix V(c).)

Exercises

Elected and key emergency response officials attended 27 disaster preparedness exercises in municipalities to test and discuss peacetime emergency operations plans for their communities. Three of these exercises were of a new design involving only key emergency headquarters officials. (See Appendix V(d).)

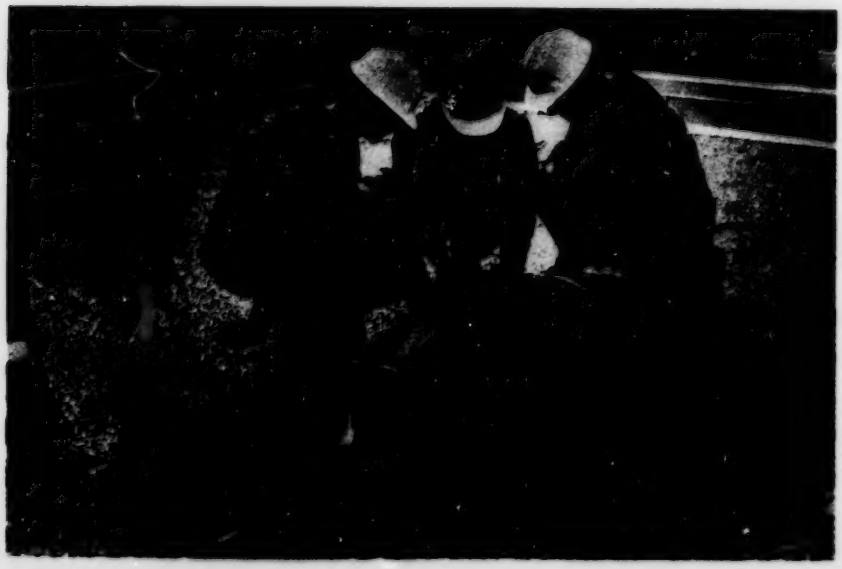
The Mobile Emergency Operations Centre was deployed on a movement and communications exercise in November. One training exercise with the emergency hospital was conducted involving 42 hospital staff and 143 visitors. Twenty-five hospitals exercised their emergency plans. (See Appendix V(e).)

Disaster Health Services Workshops

A total of 574 people attended 14 emergency preparedness workshops conducted at educational institutions.

Films

Films on loan from the provincial film library totalled 156. The films are intended to assist municipal disaster services and emergency response officials with local preparedness training in dealing with emergencies. One film was loaned out twice to municipal disaster services. Seven films were loaned 61 times through disaster health services. In addition, copies of the film, BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion), were loaned out through ADS, 22 times.



Rescue Leader is only one of the courses conducted for municipal volunteers throughout the province.

2 Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Program

The objective of this program is to foster and promote the safe handling, offering for transport and transportation of dangerous goods — products and materials with potentially dangerous properties — on Alberta roadways.

In 1980, the federal government passed the "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act" which applies to the safe handling, offering for transport and transporting of dangerous goods for all modes of transportation. Administration of marine, air and rail modes falls under federal jurisdiction while road transportation is the shared responsibility of the provinces with the federal government. Alberta's "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act" applies specifically to dangerous goods being handled, offered for transport and transported on Alberta's highways. In general, the legislation covers dangerous goods classification, packaging, labelling, vehicle placarding and documentation as well as inspection powers. The Dangerous Goods Control Program administers the act and its regulations through a program of information and awareness.

Program Legislation

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act 1982

2 Inspection Services

The seven dangerous goods inspectors completed numerous research projects and liaison visits with government and industry officials, in conjunction with their training activities. The training program was designed to provide inspectors with the necessary skills to administer the requirements of the Provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act and, as required, the Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

The first phase of the training program was completed. The balance, relating to the regulatory requirements, will be delivered via long distance and self-paced education methods.

Throughout the year, Dangerous Goods Control contributed to the development of the Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. The input provided was accepted and incorporated into the draft regulations.

Dangerous goods inspector placements to the five district offices in Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton and Grande Prairie were announced, to be effective July 1, 1984.

The initial objective for the dangerous goods inspectors is to deliver an awareness program to industry encompassing the implications of the legislation and its effects. The awareness program is designed to give industry an overview of the legislation and the requirements for compliance. The roles of inspection services and the compliance information centre are highlighted to provide industry with an insight into the services offered by the program.

The dangerous goods inspectors conducted several visits with government and industry officials, as part of their training.

2 Training

Development and delivery of a master training program for full-time dangerous goods compliance inspectors continued. A total of 233 skills were identified and organized into nine self-contained modules:

Module 1	Dangerous Goods Technology
Module 2	Related Legislation
Module 3	Transport of Dangerous Goods Legislation
Module 4	Transportation Industry
Module 5	Road Mode Inspections
Module 6	Investigations and Enforcement
Module 7	Remedial Measures
Module 8	Communications and Public Awareness
Module 9	Administration and Evaluation

Module 1 provides an inspector with the basic scientific and technical knowledge needed to understand the technical aspects of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. Module 2 familiarizes an inspector with all legislation relevant to the position and provides the necessary skills to liaise with other government departments and agencies. Module 3 is extensive and detailed training concerning dangerous goods legislation. Module 4 provides an inspector with the necessary data to understand the transportation industry. Module 5 trains an inspector to perform field inspections efficiently and effectively. Module 6 provides training to successfully prepare cases for prosecution, write tickets and otherwise enforce the legislation. Module 7 teaches skills to cope with an emergency situation encountered during the normal course of duties. Module 8 trains an inspector to conduct an awareness program and to communicate effectively with clients. Module 9 is for administrative and evaluative purposes.

Development and delivery of training materials for modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8, is continuing. Site visits, seminars, demonstrations, practical exercises and guest presentations have been incorporated into training activities.

Nineteen self study units were produced and more are being finalized. All full-time compliance inspectors successfully completed all aspects of this phase of their training.

2 Information and Research

Electronic Data Processing Long Range Plan

A long range data processing plan was prepared based on the data processing requirements for the Dangerous Goods Control Program. Approval was obtained for the implementation of a chemical information system. This system is designed to provide immediate compliance information to inspection and enforcement personnel and industry to assist in compliance with the regulations.

Chemical Information Data

Preparation of the data base for the Compliance Information Centre commenced in June, 1983. Chemical information sheets (3,500) containing comprehensive regulatory information was prepared. When a revised draft of the regulations was received, the process of amending the data base began. The manual data base will be updated as required and is designed to form the basis for the automated information system.

Technical Review of Regulations

The draft regulations pursuant to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act were reviewed. The reviews provided the technical details for a number of submissions to Transport Canada with regard to improvement of the draft regulations. The reports aided the production of training materials for the master training program.

A number of training texts with significant technical content were prepared for the training section. All material produced by the training section was validated for technical accuracy.

Network Planning

A network analysis was completed by staff to facilitate implementation of the Dangerous Goods Control Program. The project included a critical path analysis which aided management planning of optimal utilization of available resources within the Dangerous Goods Control Program. The network plan was revised periodically to accommodate changes to the original implementation plan.

Industry Awareness and Enquiry Response Seminars and Presentations

Although the federal regulations were not published during 1983, awareness amongst industry and commercial groups remained high.

Four presentations were made to the following organizations: Canadian Institute of Chemistry; Petroleum Industry Buyers Group; Sulphur Development Institute of Canada; and the Canadian Association of Production and Inventory Control.

A paper was produced on "Sulphur and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act" and published in the *Proceedings of the 1983 Sulphur Symposium*, held in Calgary in September, 1983.

Enquiry Response

Staff responded to numerous telephone enquiries from industry, provincial government departments and the public concerning aspects of the proposed legislation. The number of enquiries is expected to increase significantly once the regulations are published.

3 Program Support

Program support consists of Finance, Public Affairs and Personnel and Administration.

Financial

Program Expenditures

1. For the fiscal year 1983/84 Alberta Disaster Services expenditures and federal contributions toward the program cost were as follows:

	Provincial Expenditures	Federal Contributions Toward Provincial Expenditures
[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Expenditure	**$4,341,765.05**	**$7,500.00***

* Representing .2 per cent of total Provincial Expenditures

Municipal Emergency Program Cost

2. Program expenditures included the cost of the civil emergency planning Financial Assistance Grants to Municipalities. Grants totalling $392,944.75 were received by 317 municipalities.

Disaster Assistance Expenditures

3. Fiscal year 1983/84 disaster assistance expenditures were as follows:

a. Disaster Assistance Payments

[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Subtotal	**$868,684.43**
[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	**$930,117.18**

* Disaster Assistance application from this municipality is still pending. Figure is estimate only.

3 Program Support

Public Affairs

News and Notes

About 4,000 disaster response personnel throughout Alberta and North America received this publication quarterly. It provides professional and technical information.

H.O.T.LINE

This quarterly publication provided professional, technical and legislative information to handlers, transporters and offerers for transport of dangerous goods throughout Alberta and North America. Circulation was 5,000.

Dangerous Goods Awareness

An awareness campaign was developed for industry emphasizing cooperation rather than enforcement. The campaign consisted of a poster, two specially written and produced songs on cassette tapes, and a new logo. Work was also begun on a series of fact sheets to describe dangerous goods legislation.

A poster and brochure were developed as part of Alberta's participation in a national awareness campaign with representatives from other provinces.

Audio-Visual and Film Presentations

A 15-minute slide-tape presentation providing an overview of the department and describing the two departmental programs was completed. Each program makes up one module of the presentation and can be used individually for a program presentation or together for a departmental introduction.

A 12-minute film, produced primarily for training purposes, emphasizes the importance of planning and preparation to minimize the effects of disasters and emergencies. The film describes everything from floods to tornados and makes extensive use of news footage from television stations around the province.

Displays

The public affairs officer coordinated displays at several conventions and seminars throughout the year. Events where department displays appeared included a seminar of the Edmonton Area Pipeline Operators and Contractors in Edmonton; the Banff Community Services Display; the Medic Canada '83 Convention in Edmonton; the Canadian Institute of Chemistry Convention in Calgary; the Alberta Hospitals Association Convention in Edmonton; the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties in Red Deer; the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Convention in Red Deer; the St. Paul Health Fair; and the Alberta Association of Social Workers Convention in Calgary.

Disaster Assistance Advertising

Registration locations for nine different incidents approved for disaster assistance payments were advertised in newspapers and on radio and television.

Public Information Lectures

A half day presentation by the public affairs officer made up one module in the training program for dangerous goods inspectors. The presentation, Managing Local Public Relations and Media Materials, included visual aids and handout materials.

The public affairs officer presented two lectures to municipal and emergency response personnel attending Municipal Disaster Services Program Management Courses. Presentation topics included understanding the media and managing public information relating to emergencies. They were designed to assist local governments in developing their own public information programs.

News Releases

Ten releases were distributed to media covering a variety of departmental topics.

Administration and Personnel

Administration and Personnel provided administrative and personnel support to the department as a whole.

Appendices

Emergency Response Report Summary

1. Dangerous Goods Spill
Aldersyde (April 3, 1983)

RCMP High River reported a tanker truck involved in an accident where 30,000 litres of gasoline and 4,500 litres of diesel fuel were spilled. The spill was contained and cleaned up.

2. Dangerous Goods Spill
Viking (April 15, 1983)

Four leaking tanks containing the liquid, anhydrous ammonia, resulted in the formation of a vapor cloud which spread fumes throughout the town. One man who came into contact with the liquid was treated in hospital. The fire department dispelled the vapor cloud with fog nozzle spray. Representatives from Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited and Alberta Environment attended the scene. Subsequent investigation revealed the tanks were new and had been delivered with plastic drain plugs which failed when a pressure test was administered.

3. Dangerous Goods Spill
Dewberry (April 16, 1983)

An oil tanker hauling a pup trailer was involved in an accident. The pup trailer ended up in a ditch on its side spilling some 2,300 litres of crude oil. Clean-up was completed by Tremor Oil, owners of the vehicles.

4. Dangerous Goods Spill
Vegreville (April 16, 1983)

Approximately 5,500 litres of diesel fuel entered the town's storm sewer system when a fuel pump was left running at a Co-op Key-operated bulk station. Some of the diesel fuel was recovered from the catch basins. The system was flushed clear by the fire department.

5. Bridge Fire
Fort Saskatchewan (April 20, 1983)

A railroad bridge crossing the North Saskatchewan River caught fire when CN Rail crews burned grass on the right-of-way. The fire was extinguished by the fire departments of Dow Chemical Canada Limited and the Town of Fort Saskatchewan. The bridge was out of service for a few days for repairs.

6. Dangerous Goods Spill
Radway (April 29, 1983)

About 400 litres of gasoline spilled when a tanker truck was involved in an accident at the junction of Highways 28 and 63. The remaining 7,800 litres were transferred to another tanker. Alberta Environment supervised clean-up operations.

7. Dangerous Goods Spill
Tofield (May 20, 1983)

Underground tanks leaked gasoline at Pete's Royalite Service. Concentrations of 20 per cent gasoline were found at the building site. Power and gas were shut off and the building boarded up with suitable warning signs while testing continued. The sewer system experienced some contamination before the entry point was located and sealed. The service station was subsequently demolished and the site clay-filled.

8. Forest Fire
Swan Hills (May 31, 1983)

A fire in the town's garbage dump ignited the forest to the south. The fire was fanned by brisk northerly winds. There was no danger to the town but Highway 32 was closed from Swan Hills south to the Freeman River. The airport was also closed and preparations were made to evacuate it. Twelve aircraft, 8 tanker trucks, 25 bulldozers and 300 men were required to fight the fire. As the area had been burned out two years previously, the fire was soon brought under control and extinguished.

9. Dangerous Goods Spill
Didsbury (June 1, 1983)

Improper procedure in changing bottles resulted in an uncontrolled release of chlorine at the town's swimming pool. Sixty people were taken to hospital for examination, two of whom were detained overnight for observation.

10. Dangerous Goods Spill
Clandonald (June 2, 1983)

Vermilion RCMP reported a tanker truck and trailer overturned and spilled 68,000 litres of lubricating oil in a ditch south of Highway 45. JR Trucking, supervised by the RCMP, contained the spill and cleaned it up.

I

Emergency Response Report Summary

11. Flooding
North and Central Alberta
(June 25-27, 1983)

Heavy rains caused extensive flooding in Strathcona and Minburn counties and Improvement District No. 17. Alberta Disaster Services coordinated the provision of sandbags and temporary sanitary facilities.

12. Tornado
Camrose (June 25, 1983)

Damage estimated at $10,000 occurred when a tornado struck buildings on a farm, 25 kilometres northeast of Camrose. No injuries occurred to people or livestock.

13. Dangerous Goods Spill
CFB Edmonton (July 5, 1983)

An accident at the Canadian Forces Base resulted in a spillage of 30 litres of hydrochloric acid. Four other containers were found to be leaking. The military conducted clean-up and disposal.

14. Flooding
Kananaskis Country (July 6, 1983)

Extensive flooding at the scout camp during the XV Jamboree forced the relocation of about 500 boy scouts. Alberta Disaster Services and the Department of National Defense provided 4,000 blankets to the camp. Sleeping bags were dried out with Herman-Nelson heaters. By the morning of July 8, all was dried out and camp life returned to normal.

15. Tornado
Paradise Valley (July 8, 1983)

As many as five funnels of a tornado touched earth at Paradise Valley and moved northeast to a point eight kilometres west of Lloydminster. Numerous buildings were destroyed, trees uprooted, power and telephone lines downed and innumerable livestock killed. Only one human casualty required hospital treatment.

16. Flooding
Coronation (July 20, 1983)

A severe rainstorm caused flooding in the town. Further complications were created by much road construction and open sewers. The situation worsened as a power outage put the sewage lift pumps out of operation resulting in sewer back-up in many basements.

17. Dangerous Goods Spill
Cochrane (July 28, 1983)

Gasoline spilled when a tanker truck was unloaded at the Esso bulk station. The gasoline ignited engulfing the station in fire. The RCMP evacuated part of the town. The fire was extinguished with the assistance of the Calgary Fire Department.

18. Dangerous Goods Spill
Slave Lake (August 29, 1983)

A warehouse containing caustic soda, alcohol and oil caught fire. The fire was brought under control but the area had to be diked to contain water run-off which was spreading the caustic soda. The site was placed under guard until clean-up operations were completed.

19. Dangerous Goods Fire
Rimbey (September 21, 1983)

A crude oil tank at Gibson Oil Company was discovered burning. Extra concern was caused by the proximity of a tanker trailer partially filled with crude oil. After the tank was consumed the fire was brought under control and eventually extinguished.

20. Dangerous Goods Spill
Stirling (September 24, 1983)

A propane tanker overturned in a ditch three kilometres south of Stirling on Highway 4. One person was killed. A small quantity of the liquid was spilled.

21. Dangerous Goods Spill
High Level (September 29, 1983)

RCMP reported an overturned gasoline tanker and pup trailer alongside Highway 35 approximately four kilometres south of High Level. Both vessels were leaking. The next day some gasoline was recovered and the remainder burned off. The contaminated soil was removed under the supervision of Alberta Forest Service.

22. Vehicle Accident
Lac La Biche (September 30, 1983)

A military truck rolled over north of the town causing 20 casualties. Three of the injured subsequently died. Lac La Biche activated its emergency response plan to respond to the accident.

I

Emergency Response Report Summary

23. Dangerous Goods Spill
Highway 63 (October 11, 1983)

A semi-trailer tank carrying hot caustic soda overturned on the highway 120 kilometres south of Fort McMurray. Some of the cargo spilled. Trans Systems Incorporated, the vehicle operator, and Dow Chemical Canada Limited conducted clean-up operations.

24. Dangerous Goods Spill
Dewberry (October 10, 1983)

A semi-trailer tanker and pup trailer overturned off Highway 1, four kilometres east of Highway 876, spilling 250 barrels of crude oil into a ditch. Coke Oil of Brooks, supervised by Alberta Environment, conducted clean-up and restoration operations.

25. Dangerous Goods Spill
Dewberry (October 11, 1983)

The upset of a tanker on Highway 45, three kilometres west of Dewberry, resulted in spillage of 160,000 litres of crude oil. The spill was contained in a dry ditch (no nearby body of water). Under the supervision of the Energy Resources Conservation Board, Tremore Trucking pumped out the residue oil and restored the environment.

26. Dangerous Goods Fire
Onoway (October 20, 1983)

A tanker truck with a burning cargo of antifreeze necessitated road blocks at the junction of Highways 43 and 635. No injury and only a slight hazard from the vapors and gases resulted from the combustion. The situation returned to normal after the fire was extinguished.

27. Earth Tremors
Southern Alberta (October 28, 1983)

An earthquake in Idaho, U.S.A., registering 6.7 on the Richter scale, caused earth tremors to be felt west to Kamloops, B.C., east to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and as far north as Edmonton, Alberta. The effect of the tremors was amplified in the higher buildings, some of which were unnecessarily evacuated. Petroleum and pipeline companies were concerned with the severity of possible after-shock waves. Fortunately, these waves did not develop to any significant degree.

28. Dangerous Goods Spill
Irma (October 28, 1983)

A tanker truck and pup trailer carrying anhydrous ammonia went out of control when the driver swerved to avoid an existing accident. The truck overturned at a service station breaking two gasoline pumps. The pup trailer broke loose and stopped in a nearby lumber yard. The tanker's cargo and diesel fuel from the tractor leaked but was contained. Clean-up of the accident site required eight hours to complete.

29. Dangerous Goods Spill
Derwent (November 6, 1983)

A pup trailer overturned on Highway 45 spilling 1,500 litres of diesel fuel. West Can Transport cleaned up the spill.

30. Dangerous Goods Spill
Calmar (November 8, 1983)

A Texaco gas well in the Calmar district blew out in the early morning. Alberta Disaster Services sent a liaison officer to municipalities possibly affected (Calmar, Leduc, Devon, Thorsby, Millet, Ma-Me-O Beach, Wetaskiwin, and the Counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin). The officer assisted municipal officials in preparing to respond should the incident develop into an emergency. The escaping gas contained a low percentage of hydrogen sulphide and posed no danger to humans or livestock. The well was capped, November 10.

31. Dangerous Goods Spill
Stony Plain (January 4, 1984)

An unknown quantity of gasoline spilled into a ditch when a tanker truck overturned. The RCMP, Fire Department and Alberta Environment attended the scene. The tanker was pumped out, the wreckage removed and the residue gasoline in the ditch burned off.

32. Dangerous Goods Spill
Delburne (January 4, 1984)

A tanker truck carrying 45,000 litres of methanol overturned on Highway 21 northeast of Delburne. The driver was killed. The Delburne Fire Department and the RCMP attended the scene. About half the tanker's cargo was lost and absorbed into the ground.

I Emergency Response Report Summary

33. Dangerous Goods Spill
Medicine Hat (January 7, 1984)

Canadian Pacific Railway experienced a major derailment of some 45 cars near the bridge crossing the South Saskatchewan River and the railway station. The train was transporting a mixed cargo including lumber, methanol, fertilizer and sulphur. The accident caused the ignition of lumber and sulphur. The city activated its emergency operations plan (it had been recently rehearsed) and evacuated 150 residents who were downwind and affected by the thick smoke from the burning sulphur. By way of an established agreement between the city and the local amateur radio club, 12 HAM operators responded to the emergency, handling 98 messages. The service rendered by the amateur radio operators was much appreciated by the city. The situation in Medicine Hat returned to normal the next day with clean-up operations well underway.

34. Dangerous Goods Spill
Pigeon Lake (January 9, 1984)

A 15-centimetre butane pipeline was punctured during excavation northwest of the Texaco Bonnyglen plant. Some 50 barrels of butane spilled on the ground while 1,400 barrels remained in the line. The butane was displaced with nitrogen and flared and burned off as it leaked out the line.

35. Dangerous Goods Spill
Ponoka (January 25, 1984)

A two-truck collision on Highway 2 about three kilometres north of the Hobbema overpass resulted in a spill of 13,000 litres of diesel fuel. The accident occurred during white-out conditions. Texaco cleaned up the spill under the supervision of Alberta Environment.

36. Dangerous Goods Spill
Looma (February 12, 1984)

A level crossing on Highway 21 was blocked for about four hours when 23 cars of an Edmonton-bound freight train derailed near Looma. Sulphur and grain were spilled along a stretch of track. The spill and wreckage were subsequently cleaned up by CN Rail crews.

37. Earthquake
Southern Alberta (February 12, 1984)

An earthquake registering 4.6 on the Richter scale and centred near the village of Raymond was felt as far north as Calgary. The quake rattled windows and wakened residents. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

38. Dangerous Goods Spill
Rocky Mountain House (February 14, 1984)

A well blowout south of Rocky Mountain House released natural gas into the atmosphere for two days before being brought under control. The gas did not contain hydrogen sulphide. Since the area was sparsely populated, no evacuation was necessary.

39. Fire
Hairy Hill (February 20, 1984)

A major fire destroyed a hardware store, lumber yard and an Alberta Treasury Branch. Village and school records were lost in the blaze.

40. Fire
Viking (March 2, 1984)

A grain elevator owned by Cargill Nutrena Feeds Ltd. was destroyed by fire. The Viking fire department had difficulty keeping nearby buildings from igniting, due to lack of equipment. The problem was solved by using a cherry picker which lifted the fire hose nozzle 25 metres above ground.

41. Aircraft Fire
Calgary (March 22, 1984)

A Pacific Western Airlines Boeing 737 caught fire while on take-off at the Calgary International Airport. The pilot aborted take-off and stopped the aircraft on a taxi way where all 119 passengers and crew were safely evacuated. The aircraft was destroyed. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

II

Alberta Disaster Services Districts

III

Alberta Emergency Government Structure

IV

Disaster Assistance Programs

1. The program approved for an extraordinary rain/hail/wind storm in Lethbridge and vicinity in July 1982, was brought to a close.

2. The program approved for rainstorms and flooding in Grande Prairie and area in July, 1982, was continued for business applicants who were still repairing massive damage to their access roads and bridge crossings.

3. A payment was approved for Improvement District No. 1 for unusual expenditures relating to fire fighting activities required to contain a serious grass fire at Cypress Hills Provincial Park in October, 1979.

4. The Town of Two Hills was granted financial assistance for municipal expenses incurred in dealing with an extraordinary rainstorm and flooding in June, 1983.

5. A disaster assistance program was authorized when the County of Strathcona/Sherwood Park experienced a massive rainstorm and flooding in June, 1983. The program continued into fiscal year 1984/85.

6. Assistance was provided to residents of Minburn County when the Vermilion River flooded after a heavy rainstorm in June, 1983, damaging several farms and private and municipal properties.

7. A program was approved to deal with loss and damage to municipal, residential and business properties in Vegreville due to a rainstorm and flooding in June, 1983.

8. Approval was granted to a program to aid individuals in the County of Vermilion River where property was damaged by a tornado in July, 1983.

9. Assistance was provided to Improvement District No. 17 (Central) including the Village of Kinuso to recover from heavy rainstorms and flooding in June, 1983.

10. Improvement District No. 17 (East) including Slave Lake received assistance for loss and damage due to rainstorms and flooding in June, 1983.

11. Assistance was granted to Plamondon when a torrential rainstorm in July, 1983 caused flooding of several private properties.

12. The County of Two Hills received assistance when properties were flooded due to an extraordinary rainstorm in July, 1983. Flooding damage was intensified due to a period of continuous wet weather during the previous month.

13. Improvement District No. 16, in the area of New Fish Creek, received assistance when a rainstorm and continuous wet weather resulted in widespread flooding and damage in July, 1983.

V

Training Statistics, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

A. Alberta Disaster Services Central School

The Alberta Disaster Services Central School in Edmonton provided training for candidates from Alberta municipalities, provincial and federal government departments, and industry, as indicated below:

Type of Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Totals	12	222

B. Alberta Disaster Services Extension School

The following extension courses were conducted in municipalities:

Type of Course	Number of Courses	Number of Candidates
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Totals	50	734

Instruction by District Officers

Alberta Disaster Services district officers conducted 27 training events in municipalities (Appendix V(d)).

V

Training Statistics, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

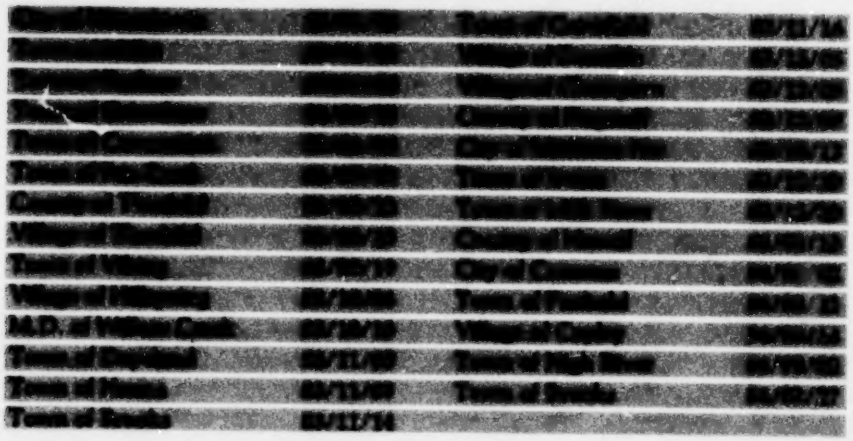
C. Candidates from Alberta attended courses, conferences and seminars at the Federal Study Centre at Arnprior, Ontario as indicated:

Course/Conference/Seminar	Number of Courses, etc.	Number of Alberta Candidates
[illegible]	8	13
[illegible]	6	20
[illegible]	1	2
[illegible]	2	3
[illegible]	1	1
[illegible]	3	3
[illegible]	3	13
[illegible]	1	4
[illegible]	1	2
[illegible]	1	3
[illegible]	1	1
[illegible]	1	1
[illegible]	1	2
[illegible]	1	2
Totals	27	76

V

Training Statistics, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

D. Municipal Peacetime Emergency Operations Exercises



E. Hospital Emergency Plan Exercises

No.	Hospital	City/Town	Date